



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

23 JUL 1993

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, USACE COMMANDS
DIRECTORS, USACE LABORATORIES
DIRECTORS, HQUSACE
CHIEFS OF SEPARATE OFFICES, HQUSACE

SUBJECT: Restrictions on Official Activities Arising from
Involvement with Professional Organizations

1. The Acting General Counsel of the Army recently issued guidance regarding restrictions on official activities of DA personnel arising from their involvement with non-Federal (professional) organizations. The guidance is based upon the Office of Government Ethics' Standards of Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, Subpart E, entitled "Impartiality in Performing Official Duties." The restrictions apply to military officers and civilian personnel.

2. The guidance states that Federal conflict-of-interest law (18 USC 208) prohibits DA personnel from participating personally and substantially in official matters that would directly affect the financial interests of an organization in which they serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee. The restriction also applies if the officer or employee is not serving in such a capacity but otherwise actively participates in the organization's affairs, such as chairing a committee or subcommittee, or heading up a membership drive. The restriction results from personal participation in non-Federal organizations and does not arise when the officer or employee participates as a Government representative.

3. For example, a DA employee, who is the president of a professional association that sponsors an annual conference for which a registration fee is charged, may not authorize or recommend official attendance at the conference for himself or other DA personnel. To do so would constitute participation in a matter that would directly affect the financial interests of an organization in which he or she is serving as an officer. Personnel who would otherwise seek this employee's permission to attend the conference must obtain permission from the DA employee's supervisor or other designated authority. Employees who are officers, directors, etc. may request permission from their supervisors to attend such conferences, themselves, but must disclose their office in the organization at the time of their request.

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4. The restriction applies to all current officers, directors, trustees, general partners and employees of non-Federal organizations and lasts for a period of one year after participation in such capacity ceases.

5. Please insure that all members of your command/directorate or separate office are informed of this guidance.

FOR THE COMMANDER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lester Edelman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LESTER EDELMAN
Chief Counsel